

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4234

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: DEFMIN VREDELING AT CENTER OF POLITICAL CONTROVERSY

REF: THE HAGUE 4244

1. DURING MY CALL ON JAN MEIJER, DIRECTOR GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN MFA ON ANOTHER MATTER
AUGUST 29, I RAISED QUESTION OF DEFMIN VREDELING'S INTER-
VIEW IN "VRIJ NEDERLAND."

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2. MEIJER, WHO MEMBER PVDA (LABOR PARTY) SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL AND MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRONK THIRTY MINUTES EARLIER AND THAT LABOR STRATEGY WAS TO PLAY DOWN AFFAIR. SITUATION TO BE DISCUSSED THIS AFTERNOON BY CABINET DURING MEETING WHICH CALLED FOR UNRELATED MATTERS.

3. ACCORDING MEIJER, FULL INTERVIEW (EMBASSY NOW TRANSLATING) NOT AS BAD AS EXCERPTS MAKE IT SEEM. BECAUSE OF STYLE AND FRANKNESS OF VREDELING, HE MAY EVEN CREATE CERTAIN PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR HIMSELF. HOWEVER, MEIJER SAID THAT TWO ASPECTS OF INTERVIEW WERE POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME: (A) VREDELING'S CHARACTERIZATION OF VAN DER STOEL AND HIS RELIANCE ON SUBORDINATES, AND (B) HIS CAUSTIC COMMENTS ABOUT NATO SEC GEN LUNS. OF THE TWO, COMMENTS ABOUT LUNS WERE MORE SERIOUS.

4. PVDA STRATEGY FOR THE MOMENT WAS TO DOWN-PLAY SITUATION. AFTER CABINET MEETING PRIMIN DEN UYL COULD ISSUE STATEMENT TO DEFUSE SITUATION. DEN UYL IN GOOD POSITION TO DO SO, AND COULD TREAT VREDELING'S CHARACTERIZATION OF PRIMIN (COUNTRY'S BIGGEST NATIONALIST) AS COMPLIMENT AND NATURAL STATEMENT TO BE MADE ABOUT DUTCH HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY WOULD TREAT COMMENTS ABOUT THEMSEVLES IN SAME VEIN. MEIJER FELT THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD SMOOTH PROBLEM OVER, BUT HE SAID THAT IF DEN UYL AND VREDELING CLASH DURING DAY (TWO HELD PRIVATE MEETING DURING MORNING), PLAN MIGHT FALL APART.

5. LUNS REPRESENTS PROBLEM WHICH NOT SO EASILY SOLVED. DEFMIN MUST BE ABLE WORK WITH NATO SEC GEN. IF LUNS NOT WILLING LET MATTER PASS, DEN UYL CABINET MIGHT HAVE TO REPLACE VREDELING AFTER ALL. MEIJER FELT THAT WOULD BE REGRETABLE RESULT.
TANGUY

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